State Level Road Safety Bureau

*345. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Road Safety Bureau in every State;

(b) whether any such Road Safety Bureau operates in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether road safety will be enhanced by increasing vigilance in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir. However, in terms of section 215 of the Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 the State Government may constitute for the State Road Safety Council.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, a State Road Safety Council has been set up in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Yes Sir.

Relaxation in the Restricted/Protected area Permits to Foreign Tourists Visiting North Eastern States

*346. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to further relax the Restricted/Protected Area permits for foreign tourists visiting North-Eastern States to improve tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Restricted Area Permit regime was completely lifted in the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura on 19.5.95. Requests for further relaxations/complete withdrawal of Restricted Areas/Protected Areas regime have been received from some North-eastern States including the State of Sikkim. Such requests are considered provided they are consistant with security requirements.

Cellular-Phone facilities in Nagpur and Patiala

*347. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the cellular-telephone facilities will start in the cities of Nagpur in Maharashtra and Patiala in Punjab; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to expedite these facilities in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in the cities of Nagpur in Maharashtra and Patiala in Punjab may commence in the last quarter of 1996.

(b) The Government is in the process of awarding licences to the first and second highest bidder companies in Maharashtra and Punjab Territorial Telecom. Circles. The licences are likely to be issued by end December, 1995. As per the terms and conditions of the licence, the licensees are obliged to commence the service within one year of obtaining the licence in atleast 10% of the District Headquarters.